



OCTOBER 1962

TOC H JOURNAL



PUBLISHED BY T O C H AT 15 TRINITY SQUARE, LONDON, EC3

NINEPENCE

Journal Smalls

Small Advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 6d. a word (minimum 6s.). Editorial Office: Toc H, 15 Trlnty Square, London, E.C.3.



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OCTOBER, 1962

FORTIETH YEAR OF PUBLICATION



TOC H JOURNAL

Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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Together with a List of

Headquarters, Areas and Houses of Toc H

COVER PICTURE: Community singing in the big marquee at the Derby Toc H Boys Camp.

Photograph by Courtesy of Derby Evening Telegraph

EDITORIAL OFFICE · TOC H, 15 TRINITY SQ
LONDON EC3 · TELEPHONE ROYAL 0472



IN AND OUT



-notes & comment

THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT of Jewish Youth Voluntary Service (J.Y.V.S.), Jewish young people in Britain, aged 15 and over, are being encouraged to lend a hand whenever and wherever they can, in their own immediate localities, by giving help to individuals or organisations who can make use of their services. The enthusiasm of these youngsters is already being demonstrated in various forms of social service. One hospital has asked for lift operators at visiting times; an Old People's Association has requested volunteers to sit and read to lonely old people living alone; the Red Cross have suggested a group to learn blind/deaf language so that they can 'converse' with people thus handicapped. If there are any ways in which J.Y.V.S. members living in a Toc H Branch's district can assist with its jobs, please send the details direct to Mr. Sidney Bunt, Development Officer J.Y.V.S., 33 Berner Street, Commercial Road, London, E.1.

Young Jewry on the Job

'OLD SOLDIERS NEVER DIE' says the old jingle, but their fading away is all too often accompanied by severe hardship. Today there are nearly threequarters of a million men and women in receipt of War Disablement, War Widows or Dependents pensions; the basic for a totally disabled man being 97s. 6d. a week, and for a war widow 76s. a week. With day-to-day living expenses being what they now are, these basic pensions are quite inadequate and it is with this underprivileged section of our community that the British Legion is particularly concerned. There are a large number of desperate cases still not fully covered by the Welfare State and many of

Broke in the Wars

them would never come to light but for the vigilance of voluntary welfare workers going quietly about their job in town or village. Not one penny of the money raised by Poppy Day is used for the running of British Legion Clubs or Branches, which are financed by their members' subscriptions. For this year's Poppy Day on Saturday, November 10, readers are invited not only to give generously for their poppies but also to help all they can to ensure the collection results in an all-time record.

UNDER THE TITLE '*Tubby* Speaks, the following review of John Durham's book *Tubby on Toc H* (6s. 0d.) appeared in the *Church Times*, issue dated 25.5.'62. "Mr. Durham was

'Tubby'

Speaks

till lately Deputy Vicar of All Hallows-by-the-Tower, and has for many years been closely associated with Dr. Clayton. This is the third book of its kind which he has edited. It is an anthology of carefully chosen passages from the speeches and writings of the inimitable 'Tubby' together with Lit-anies and prayers which he has written. That much is inevitably "dated" does not detract from the value of the book in revealing the purpose of Toc H and the mind of its founder. Every member of Toc H will value this record: others will read it with interest, and some doubtless will be led to join in the unique work which still goes on. 'Lives speak, while words are merely spoken'—this is the theme repeatedly driven home. In the course of the book various problems are seen to have been faced and met, such as whether Unitarians should be admitted to membership. There are indices both of sources and subjects.

THE NEED FOR MORE organised services in visiting elderly people everywhere, including rural areas, is stressed in the annual report of The National Old People's Welfare

Regular

Visits

Council. Organised visiting, the report adds, means more than paying casual visits. "It demands a degree of preparation and matching the visitor to the person to be visited. It needs, above all, a continuity of relationship. Elderly people, however lonely they may feel, react very much like other people; they do not immediately accept well-meant offers of friendship from strangers. A relationship of trust can only be established gradually, by tact, understanding and helpfulness." The aim is to span the country with a network of visiting services in which many different voluntary bodies co-ordinate their efforts. (*Jobmasters please note.* ED.)

The Clayton Volunteers

An on-the-spot report

MARY-JEAN HASLER

The Clayton Volunteers spent the summer working with youth organisations in the United States, under the British counterpart to the Winant Volunteers scheme which, since its inception in 1948, has brought nearly seven hundred young Americans to work in youth clubs in Britain. This year's group of Clayton Volunteers numbered sixteen, and here is an account of their work, by British journalist Mary-Jean Hasler, working in New York.

MICHAEL BUTLER emerged from the open doorway of a Settlement House in Jersey City, and walked down the short flight of steps onto the street pavement in the direction of a negro Council Housing estate where he had various calls to make that particular afternoon. Immediately a bunch of Puerto Rican children broke away from their street game and rushed towards him, clustering around him. They were shabbily dressed, with dirty faces and dark tousled hair—but happy, laughing kids. Rachel, the eldest, introduced her numerous sisters and brothers and cousins. A barrage of questions broke forth. Would he come and join in their game? When were they going to the sea again? When was he going to come and visit their baby brother? Greeted as a lifelong friend, he had, in fact been there only three weeks.

Michael comes from Cambridge, England. A 24-year-old graduate from Clare College, he is on leave of absence from a Watford firm where he is a graduate engineer.

He has been working amongst people of many different nationalities and colours in a Jersey City parish, visiting families, helping to organise a summer school programme, and involved in various other recreational activities for children and teenagers.



Daily Herald
Clayton Volunteers and their New York friends

There is no glamour about the area in which he has been operating. Many of the families live in overcrowded conditions, dark, hot and dirty. Children play in the streets amongst the litter and the dust. Teenage groups

gather among the rubble and empty cans thrown down upon wasteland areas. The older people, their leisure wasted in idleness, just sit watching television, or simply just sit, staring at the outside world from dark, open doorways. It is this idleness, this misdirection of leisure and energy spreading rapidly from parent to child, which has been one of the major causes of juvenile delinquency. It was no small wonder that when the Reverend LEDLIE LAUGHLIN, newly appointed to a parish in Jersey City, visited every family in one particular area inviting them to send their children to a summer school he was planning to start, no less than 250 children turned up the first day. And the attendance remained one hundred per cent for the entire period.

Impact Made

"It is great to find that the Church is held in such high regard here because of the impact it has made." The speaker was Michael's colleague, 24-year-old JONATHAN WINTER, a theological student at King's College, London, who comes from Camberwell. These two young Englishmen have made quite an impact themselves this summer. The congregation of a neighbouring parish have been so impressed by reports of their work that they have asked for a Clayton Volunteer to visit them next year and have offered to pay his fare from England and all his expenses.

A similar impression was reported from Washington D.C. by the Rev. WILLIAM WENDT, the priest in charge of St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, one of that city's few integrated parishes, where 22-year-old London School of Economics student, EVELYN PAGE from Methil, Fife, Scotland and 26-year-old theological student, NORMAN WRIGLEY, from Barking, Essex, have been working. "Well over half the population of this city is negro and one of our main problems here is the growth of good relations between the coloured and white people," he said. "In many ways the English students coming to us represent both races in a way which the student from the United States could never do, and the barriers between

racers are overcome more rapidly. Apart from this, these Clayton Volunteers are able to offer us new insights, new vision and a broader outlook for the work being done in our depressed areas." Also working in Washington, at the Friendship House Settlement on Capitol Hill were 22-year-old JESS HATFIELD, an occupational therapist from Ongar, Essex and 21-year-old MARTIN WHILLOCK a fitter mechanic from Moultsford, Berks.

Toughest Assignment

Facing perhaps the Clayton Volunteers' toughest assignment this summer was a 34-year-old West Indian, SAM SMITH. Although all the Volunteers have done social welfare work in Britain, he was probably the most experienced having studied public and social administration at Ruskin College, Oxford and at present continuing his studies at Hull University. He certainly needed his experience. His job at the Hamilton Madison House Settlement on New York's seamy Lower East Side was to try and interest the tough teenage gangs in joining activities organised by the settlement and to bring the different racial groups together. He found no opposition in the latter respect to the fact that he was a West Indian. "If anything," he said, "it was possibly in my favour."

Also working on the Lower East Side was 21-year-old TOM DAVIES, a student at the University of South Wales, from Cardiff. Attached to the Henry Street Settlement, he earned himself the nickname of "The Pied Piper on Wheels". Every day he toured the street corners in a car collecting children and whisking them away from the heat and the dust to play games in one of the parks or off to Coney Island or into the country. Short and alert, he needed every ounce of energy he could muster. "These kids are like leeches," he chuckled. "They scramble all over you!"

This sentiment was shared by 26-year-old DAVID WRIGHT, a theological student from Monkseaton, Northumberland, who worked for the Lower East Side Mission. This organisation, which comprises St. Christo-

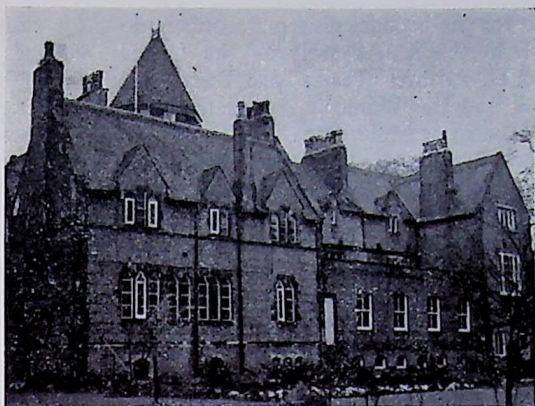
pher's and St. Augustine's Chapels in Henry Street, is striving all out, day and night, to combat poverty, narcotics, drunkenness and juvenile gang warfare. David, from nine in the morning until late afternoon, was in charge of a group of 8-9 year-olds. "The children here are terribly resilient," he said. "To be able to deal with them at all you have got to show that you are a fairly tough person but, at the same time, being a representative of the church, you have to use the heavy hand with a forgiving spirit! Quite a strain!" Twenty-two-year-old CHRISTINE MULLER from Cardiff, who worked with David, commented: "It's a great joy to see them coming to the church on Sunday mornings all dressed up in their best, looking like little angels. You can't believe they are the same children!" In spite of previous experience with children in England, Christine has found her work with them here totally different. "Their emotions seem to be much more intense, perhaps because of the heat."

The humidity of New York in high summer does not help an already tough and exhausting job, requiring courage and endurance.

Towards the end of their work period most of the Clayton Volunteers looked as if they could sleep the clock round. But there were no complaints forthcoming. On the contrary they seemed fired with enthusiasm for the challenge their work presented and the chance it gave them of living and working with the people of a foreign country as well as seeing it.

MICHAEL PICKARD, Toc H member from Forest Gate, London, seemed to be speaking for all of them when he said: "We have gained from this far more than we can ever give. It was a tremendous experience, hard work, even frustrating at times, but so stimulating and so worthwhile."

Gained far more than they have given? Father DWYER, of St. Christopher's, disagreed flatly. "They have brought a sense of love, of humour, and of dedication that is quite wonderful".



Mark IV Manchester

World Chain of Light

December 11-12, 1962

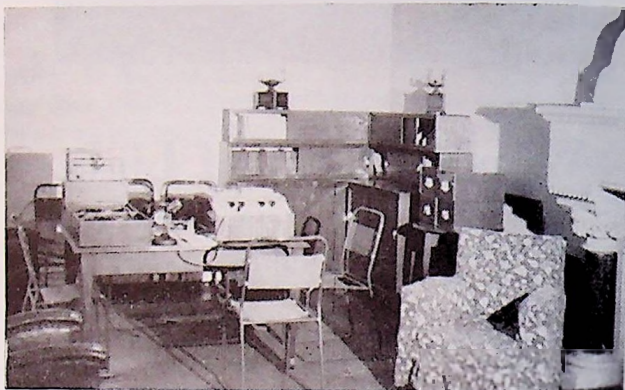
BOB KNIGHT

FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR the Vigil of the World Chain of Light, beginning in the United Kingdom, will be held in a provincial centre: 1961 at Dor Knap; 1962 in Manchester.

Mark IV at Victoria Park was the first provincial Mark, and we have decided to hold the Vigil there, in the Manchester Room. This room is a second lounge, and in it Toc H members and their friends have planned many of their most effective onslaughts against the depersonalising forces that operate in a community wholly dependant on industry and commerce.

The Appeal for Mark IV in 1959 revealed an impressive list of 'firsts' in the service that had come from the House. Nowadays the Manchester Room is used three times a week by the Hospital Commentaries Association as a

studio for the broadcasting of record requests for patients in 34 hospitals. As well as the normal meetings of Branches, District Teams and Area Executives of both Toc H and the Women's Association, the Committee of the Manchester Children's Camp come on the first Sunday afternoon of each month to digest the lessons of last Summer's Camp and plan the next. The Toc H Rugby Club holds an occasional "Captain's Evening" in the Manchester Room. The Mark Warden, Ralph Taylor, has been known to bring his Scouts and the Cub Pack from the Parish Hall for an evening of squashed games and competitions.



The Manchester Room

For the past two years we have enjoyed the renewal of friendship with the Parish Church of St. Chrysostom. The Rev. Charles Challen, trained at Knutsford, has been a keen servant of Toc H all his ministry. He will take part in the Vigil, and so will the Rev. Osborne Hughes, our nearest Congregational Minister. Australians will feel a stronger link through these two Padres. Charles was in Western Australia Toc H for eight years immediately before the war, and Osborne is George Lee's father-in-law.

The pattern of Manchester Toc H is of independent members of one family. The ties of family life are vital in

an industrial city. Many men work in one place and live in another, from five to twenty miles away. Many others come to the Mark for study at the University close by, or for apprenticeships in industry or commerce. Separated from his natural kith and kin, the tried friendships of Toc H are often the closest a man has.

And our family circle is not merely contemporary. Pat Leonard, and Herbert Leggate span the years and recall with themselves others who are our links with the family in heaven, Seedley Jones, Stuart Greenacre. . . . You will put your own names in the spaces. They have forged the first link we shall hold in December. We who are here now are grateful that it is a link strong enough to take the strain while the Light circles the world and returns to us. At the end of it we shall see our responsibility and our opportunity in a clearer perspective.

Festival Link

This echo of the Summer Festival has reached us from across the Atlantic. The writer, an American lady doing a tour of Europe had never heard of Toc H until her attention was caught by a poster announcement of the Festival outside the Royal Albert Hall. Here is her comment :

420 Beacon Street,
Boston 15,
Mass.

One hardly knows how to say "thank you" to strangers who were so gracious to an unknown American on the event of your wonderful Toc H Festival. Is there any way in which I can make my appreciation felt, other than a donation to your "Out of Many into One"? May I wish all of you including the lovely mother and sister of my host (in the box) a most successful year? In my broadcast over W.N.A.C. on Monday I spoke my gratitude and told what I had learned of your organisation. Can you send me more literature?

MURIEL A. MACLACHLAN

October Publication . . .

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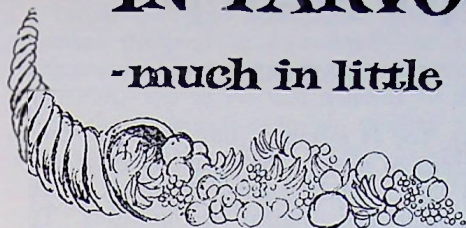
RNLI



COXS W / LN

MULTUM IN PARVO

-much in little



✠ **JOHN CALLF:** At the invitation of the Central and South African Executives the Administrator is to visit South Africa and Rhodesia. He will be away from the beginning of November to the end of January. During his absence **REX CALKIN** will be Acting Administrator.

✠ **"TOC H and YOUTH WORK"** Dor Knap week-end, **FRIDAY 26 TO SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER.** There may still be a few vacancies. Applications to **Alec Churcher** at Headquarters.

✠ **SCHOOLS PROJECTS,** at Loch Eil in Western Scotland and Morden in Dorset during the summer have been outstanding successes. These, with Toc H camps and similar activities have involved more than 100 senior school-boys. The need now is for follow-up local projects to which these and other boys may be assigned in

coming months. Branches are urged to think about this without delay and send suggestions to their Area Staff.

✠ **OCTOBER 31** — end of Financial Year. Still time, though not much, to get 'on target'.

✠ **'PEOPLE TO PEOPLE':** The Week of International Friendship throughout Britain, November 18-24.

✠ **THE WORLD CHAIN OF LIGHT,** starting at Mark IV, Manchester will be observed westward of there to the Pacific on December 11 and from New Zealand west to Manchester on December 12. Now is the time to plan exchanges of messages between Branches across the seas.

✠ **BRANCH PROGRAMMES** for the winter session will be the better for the inclusion of inter-Branch visits and other activities of a combined character.

People to People

JOYCE SHARP

IN RECENT WEEKS Toc H members must have felt profoundly concerned to read of the disturbances caused in this country by the activities of minority groups whose declared aims are racial and national discrimination. To attack a person because of his colour or ancestry—something which he is powerless to alter—is intolerable in the minds of most of us.

Happily the followers of such policies in this country are few and most British people would strongly deny any acknowledgment to prejudice or a colour bar. However, there is one fault of which most of us are guilty—that of indifference. English people are not by nature gregarious and tend to forget that our policy of 'live and let live' may be interpreted as coldness by the warm-hearted Latin or West Indian.

Members of forward-looking organisations such as Toc H and the International Friendship League recognise this and much valuable work is done quietly and unobtrusively throughout the year to integrate overseas visitors with the local community. But is this enough? Surely there are many people not committed to any particular organisation who, nevertheless, would welcome the opportunity of getting to know someone from another country thereby appreciating the difficulties facing many of them in settling down to life in a strange country.

For many visitors the fact that the language and customs are different from those to which they have been used results in problems—and loneliness. Very often they have been given all too little information as to what to expect when they arrive here and this fact, allied in many

cases to a deep sensitiveness about their colour, can, and often does, lead to misunderstandings and bitterness, much of which could be avoided if they could become aware of genuine 'helping hands' soon after their arrival.

People-to-People Week, first sponsored in 1958, is a venture designed to co-ordinate the activities of such organisations and for many it is the extension of familiar activities. But to the vast majority of the general public it is the introduction to an exciting new way of life. Attracted initially by the various cultural or social events held during the Week they are encouraged to offer the home hospitality which is the main aim of People-to-People Week. The invitations might be for a meal, or a visit to a local place of interest, possibly even an overnight or weekend stay. They can be arranged on a group or individual basis.

Friendly People

Costing very little in themselves the invitations are important. For the lonely rather shy young foreigner they can mean friendship. For a housewife they can provide a glimpse of life in another land. Overseas people will have the impression of a *friendly* British people. Impressions count. What Britain means to them will depend upon what British people make it mean to them.

A young Nigerian student was so unhappy with his introduction to London that he was ready to return home after a fortnight. After a sample of the hospitality offered during an International Students Weekend at Horsham in last year's People-to-People Week, he declared he would "give it another try". This must have been repeated many times since People-to-People Week was inaugurated.

The results since 1958 have encouraged the International Friendship League to continue holding the Week on an annual basis. In towns such as Newcastle, Birmingham, Northampton and Surbiton, permanent bodies have been set up, sometimes on the initiative of the civic authorities, to continue the work of People-to-People all

the year round. When the need for such bodies is recognised in each major town throughout the country the necessity for People-to-People Week will be ended—but that goal is not yet in sight.

This year the Week will be held from November 18-24. Toc H Branches can help by associating themselves locally with events already planned in their town or, in areas where there are no IFL branches, by taking the initiative themselves. Toc H in York has in fact sponsored People-to-People Week there for a number of years and the IFL would be pleased to hear of further instances. People-to-People Week is flexible, as needs vary from town to town. In some cases there are problems with immigrants, in others with students or *au pair* girls.

Need Urgent

As individuals Toc H members can, by example, assist the expansion of the work by offering hospitality themselves and encouraging their friends to do likewise. For those who are able to offer, the British Council would be glad to hear of "transit accommodation" for students—2/3 nights duration in private homes whilst the permanent accommodation is finalised. The need is urgent and will, of course, extend beyond the Week.

Others who wish to be associated with this work but who cannot participate for various reasons might like to know of the existence of a Discount Trading number allocated to People-to-People Week by the London Co-operative Society. The discount from purchases made against the number 1297183 (prefix L for use outside London) will be used for the promotion of People-to-People Week nationally.

It is said that an Englishman's home is his castle. For some overseas visitors it must be literally true—a castle complete with moat and drawbridge permanently raised. Will Toc H members unite with the International Friendship League to help lower these defences of ours during the 1962 People-to-People Week?

★ 'Concerning Toc H'

WHEN making the preliminary announcement of this Competition in July last year, we had little idea of the response it would receive. Twelve months is a long time for any competition to run, and a most encouraging feature has been the steady stream of articles it has produced. Our warmest thanks goes out, not only to those writers whose articles have been published but also to all who submitted entries.

Now the time has come for units to tell us which of the published articles held the greatest interest for them. Voting, of necessity, is confined to Toc H Branches and groups on the basis of one unit one vote.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, the writer of the article receiving the greatest number of votes will be entitled to nominate any Branch or group he chooses to receive an award of £5 5s. 0d. for their funds.

All Branch and group votes must be recorded on the form below and the closing date for voting forms to reach the Editorial Office is Monday, November 19, 1962. A complete list of published entries is printed overleaf.

VOTING FORM

'Concerning Toc H' Competition

To : The Editor, Toc H Journal, 15 Trinity Square,
London, E.C.3.

In the view of this unit, the article holding the greatest interest for us is:

Secretary

Branch

Address

NOTE: Closing date for receiving Voting Forms, 19 November, 1962.

List of published entries in the 'Concerning Toc H' Competition

DATE:	TITLE OF ARTICLE:	WRITER:
1961		
Sept.	Thought or Feeling?	<i>D. Hughes</i>
Oct.	Towards Rehabilitation	<i>Les Booth</i>
Oct.	A New Task	<i>J. D. Kirkpatrick</i>
Nov.	August Story	<i>A. R. Chapman</i>
Nov.	Toc H in a Cheshire Home	<i>Bill Bull</i>
Dec.	Landfalls!	<i>Ted Inglis</i>
Dec.	What makes it Tick?	<i>Dick Perkins</i>
1962		
Jan.	Snowball	<i>J. P. Boxall</i>
Feb.	Toc H in Five Minutes	<i>Bernard Dewey Brown</i>
Feb.	What Price Efficiency?	<i>Howard Hall</i>
March	To Disown Discouragement	<i>T. A. Lamberton</i>
March	Men at Work	<i>David G. Thomas</i>
April	More than Junk!	<i>Chas. R. Saul</i>
April	The Old Brigade	<i>Maurice Stevenson</i>
May	Operation 'Housebound'	<i>E. A. Hood</i>
May	Gateway to Fellowship	<i>John Trimmer</i>
June	'But for the Grace . . .'	<i>Jack Hartley</i>
June	Skin Deep	<i>Maurice Cooper</i>
Sept.	Projecting Toc H	<i>William Sandison</i>
Sept.	Co-ordination and Effort	<i>J. Emmerson</i>

*To Secretaries of all Branches and groups. Please ensure
that a vote is taken and this Voting Form completed
and posted before November 19th.*

FROM ALL PARTS

-area news



OXFORD & THAMES VALLEY

A WANTAGE member has obtained permission to hold an inaugural meeting, with the aid of the Area Padre, at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell. There is a possibility of holding regular lunch-hour meetings there but it is not intended to start a Toc H unit, but rather to provide a "feed back" of interested men to local Toc H Branches. This might well lead to the formation of new units in such nearby places as Didcot, where at present there is no Branch. We hope the idea meets with the success it deserves.

DERICK PARSONS

EAST MIDLANDS

The MID-NORTHANTS District Team organised its annual training day at Knuston Hall on September 2. The beautiful weather encouraged the thirty men to sit out on the trim lawns to hear about and discuss "Expansion and Extension". The speaker was Harold Bramley of Anstey who is well-known for the blunt and able manner in which he deals with his favourite topic. Toc H is what the individual makes it, he said, and once we have realised this, done something to make ourselves more attractive to the outsider, we are then justified in going forth to recruit.

In the discussion which followed the morning and afternoon sessions it was obvious that Harold had got the meeting eating out of his hand. He warned them not to look in the mirror on the Monday morning and say "Missionary, who? Me?", after all the high flown thoughts of the day!

During a short service led by Sid Hudson particular mention was made of Ralph Alderson, stalwart member of Wellingborough Branch, who died suddenly a few days before the meeting. His dry, pithy humour and deep insight into Toc H will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

JOHN POOLE

*Billingham Express*

Members and guests at Bilingham Branch's first birthday party.

SOUTHERN

Due to a typing error, it was stated in the June JOURNAL, that FARLINGTON Branch had despatched 200 pairs of spectacles to the "Friends of Vellore". This should have read 2,000 pairs. The good work still goes on as the Branch have now found a new source needing supplies. For those interested, the address is: Mr. H. A. Thompson, "Missionary Optical Service", 162 Salvington Road, Worthing, Sussex.

'Beer and Skittles' at the Star Inn, East Tytherley. That is one way to spend a Branch meeting night, and a very enjoyable way too. At least that is what the members and friends of ANDOVER and NORTH BADDESLEY Branches thought. The high-light of the evening was the fine bowling of the Vicar of East Tytherley, a one-time member of Andover Branch. He had obviously visited the skittle alley before, as part of his parochial duties!

During the summer months members from all parts of the Area have been attending week-ends and weeks at Dor Knap. All have returned bringing stories of the beauty of the place, and the inspiration to be found there. They are encouraging more and more folk to make a visit and to see for themselves.

Many of our seaside Branches have been happy to welcome members on holiday to their meetings and COWES Branch were very happy to welcome a family from Bristol, to their holiday bungalow.

The Midland Boys Camp has once again proved to be a great success, as did the holiday for members of an Invalid Tricycle Association run by North Baddesley Branch. Many Branches have also organized outings for old folk and for children.

But what is more important to me, is that we hear from all parts stories of members who are making their Witness through Toc H, in their daily lives. Personal stories of devotion and concern for individuals cannot very often be put in print. Let these members know that we too know of what they do, and honour them for it.

FRED BROOKER

EAST ANGLIA

The main news during the summer has been of the progress made by two new groups.

At GIMINGHAM the first job to be tackled was that of redecorating throughout a widow's cottage, including the repair of a ceiling which had fallen in. An Old People's Fund for the village has been started to provide Christmas fare and to "see that the old people are kept warm during the winter months". Visits to a nearby hospital have been made and gifts of fruit and soft drinks distributed. An old person and her furniture was moved to a more convenient bungalow. Help has been given at Garden Fetes arranged by two nearby Branches, also at a Hospital Fete. Gardens have been attended to, fences cut and lawns looked after in addition to regular waste paper collections in and around the village. And if all this was not enough to keep a group of eleven busy, a children's outing to Great Yarmouth, necessitating three coaches to convey the 100 children, was arranged and most successfully carried out. For a group which only started in April this year, in a community of little more than 600, the record is indeed an impressive one. However, the latest news is "we move into a place of our own at the end of September, which we hope will enable us to do more for those in the village".

From HOLLAND-ON-SEA comes similar news of activity. The nine members there have been meeting almost 100 per cent strong each week to tackle such jobs as grass and hedge trimming, digging gardens for old people and sawing, splitting and distributing logs from "a whole heap of old trees" given to the group by a resident. The digging of gardens and distribution of logs to old people has brought the members into contact with many whose needs include a friendly visit occasionally and these are being undertaken by the members and members of the local W.A. Branch. Barrel organ collections on the front have also been made during the summer, for which local Scouts were roped in to help. The power motor mower has also been active in helping to tidy up and cut the grass in various local churchyards, and in return for cutting the grass round the Methodist church the group has obtained a meeting room rent free for a year. This, the District Chairman alleged is surely an "ex-grassia payment".

Any long established Branches resting on their laurels should watch out, new groups seem adept at hedge clipping.

REG SMITH



Commander Williams hands over one of the commemorative plaques for the surgical beds presented to St. Mary's Hospital by Launceston Branch.

SOUTH WESTERN

At a recent gathering at St. Mary's Hospital, Launceston, three new surgical beds were handed over to the hospital on behalf of LAUNCESTON Branch. The three beds were presented in memory of Len Stanmore, late Chairman of the Branch, much of whose life of service was devoted to the patients in this hospital.

When Len joined the Elder Brethren last year a few of his friends felt that some form of permanent memorial should be found, and such was the response to the idea that the presentation of the three beds became possible.

It was felt that they would be a fitting memorial to a man whose concern was always for the comfort and ease of his friend the patient, for these ripple beds can give a comfort beyond that possible with ordinary ones.

At the simple ceremony tributes were paid to Len, and many incidents of his life were recalled—including his appearance on television as the subject of 'This is Your Life'—but underlying the whole gathering was the sense of love for a great little man who saw his duty as a Christian in simple, straight-forward terms, and who, like the Master he served, 'went about doing good'.

GILBERT FRANCIS

WEST MIDLANDS

In July, a party of STOW-ON-THE-WOLD Branch members, their wives and friends went on a sentimental journey to Dor Knap. The idea was to enable the ladies who had helped in early restoration work to see the progress made and also to see it in a summer setting.

A party of youngsters from the Chipping Norton Children's Home was taken by coach to Stratford-on-Avon. Trips on the river were followed by a ride through the Cotswolds to Bourton-on-the-Water where the local Youth Club laid on a lavish tea and entertainment.

Stow-on-the-Wold were also supper hosts to a party of Old Folk brought out by the Matson Branch. The Branch has acted as a liaison in getting together different bodies interested in Old Peoples Welfare. An analysis of the population shows that 600 inhabitants in a total of 1,700 are over sixty-five. A scheme for helping them has been prepared and should soon be under way.

HAROLD S. FISHER



Hudson Photo Service, Dover

Whitfield & Guston's new banner was dedicated in the presence of men and women from local Branches.

EASTERN LONDON

An interesting experiment in renewing a Branch's life has had a successful sequel at ELM PARK. Two years ago the membership was very small and in the older age group. It appeared unlikely that such a Branch would be able to attract younger men.

The Branch Padre decided to gather a splinter group of men in the 16-40 age group and train them separately for a period of four months. He told them a good deal about the history of Toc H, as well as grounding them in its aims and methods. At the end of the training period, the splinter group was amalgamated with the old Branch.

The young and the old have coalesced very happily and the Branch continues to grow and to add younger men. Most of the officers of the Branch are now drawn from its younger members. Old jobs have been reinforced and new ones undertaken. Toc H is again a lively force in Elm Park.

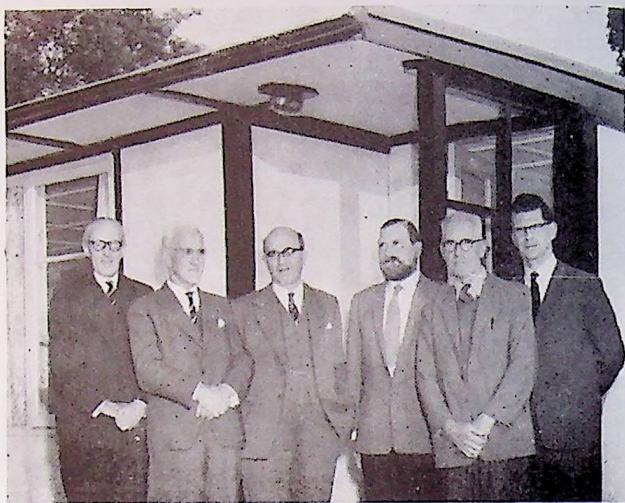
JIM GREEN

NOTTS. & DERBY

A very successful Coffee Morning and Bring-and-Buy Sale was held by the newly-formed NEWSTEAD ABBEY group to raise funds for providing an outing for the children of Caldwell House.

The effort, organised by the wives of members of the group, took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Brew and the sum of £20.10s. was raised.

BILL HARRIS



Coalville Times

A group outside Coalville Branch's new headquarters at the official opening by Sir Cyril Osborne, M.P. (l. to r.) Harry Gee, Area Chairman; Jabez Emmerson, J.P., National Vice-President and Branch Pilot; Sir Cyril Osborne, M.P.; William Hyslop, Whitwick Granite Co.; Bill Routledge, Branch vice-chairman; Michael Kirby, Branch chairman.

DOR KNAP

Dor Knap's busiest time is now nearly over but week-end parties continue till the end of November. Those who have laboured in the kitchen garden will be pleased to know that the house has been well supplied with lettuce, beetroot, fresh vegetables and potatoes, and there is much more to come.

The yews have been clipped, the side terrace tidied, the games room wall over half built (the foundation stone well and truly laid), the front path widened, the road improved, the sunken garden walls started, and much clearing up of useless shrubbery. Many Toc H members now have a stake in Dor Knap as also have 22 young schoolboys from South Wales who spent a useful week with two of their masters and learned something of Toc H and its aims and ideals.

GEORGE & DOROTHY ATKINSON

BEDS. & HERTS.

It has been a full month for LEIGHTON BUZZARD and especially for chief chivvied and pusher Cyril Mumford, their hard working Jobmaster. What we have come (so wrongly) to regard as conventional Toc H life in this Area—the book stall fund raising, after long hours of collecting; work with Old People; a little transport here and there and a few visits to the housebound are all done, but this did not suit Cyril nor his willing followers.

He wanted to expand all the things they do and tackle many more, a rota of visits to people who might be interested was drawn up. Cyril tells me of the eleven he visited only one was not interested at all, nearly a whole evening was spent with each man. The follow up was not the vague "Come along to our meeting". Leighton Buzzard have planned a small dinner and all these personally invited new contacts will be met, collected and taken to this in a few weeks time.



Marshalswick Toc H and W.A. Branches shared a joint stand at a local exhibition of organisations.

Another item of their August programme has been a side show called 'The Toc H Jackpot'. An electrical contrivance shaped with the letters TOC H which emits a frightful buzzing noise if the wrong wire is used to solve the problem.

Cyril and his men have great plans to expand their activities especially with their Youth Club work and other activities are envisaged where Toc H men can get much closer alongside the Club members.

The children at the nearby Home, will have their birthday scheme and outings expanded. Also the Branch hope to recruit many more voluntary Aunts and Uncles to take a special interest in individual children and invite them to their homes.

I think it is right for me to say here that this Branch has not yet been in existence for four years!

It is hoped that with increased manpower that they can become much more thorough and spend more time with the old and housebound handicapped in the town. Also nearby M.S. projects are also touching them—these friendships that they have been able to form have been greatly appreciated.

Whilst arousing all this interest with the male population of the town, this had to happen of course! Then men of Leighton Buzzard find themselves sponsoring a new unit of the Women's Association—in the last week in August they had twelve interested female visitors to their regular Monday night meeting! They have planned to start in October.

RAY FABLES



Market Harborough's float won them second prize in the town carnival. It so impressed a local boot and shoe manufacturer that he is using it for publicity purposes and has given a generous donation in return.

KENT

PEMBURY Men's and W.A. Branches held a garden fete on September 1 in the garden of one of the members. This was the fourth one to be held but the postponement from August bank holiday prevented many of our old supporters from being present. However, we made a profit of £76. All the usual sideshows were in action, with an excellent conjuror who also gave a Punch and Judy show and kept young and old amused. We have raised £615 in this garden since our formation, and our attractions have varied between a sheepdog demonstration to a competition for glamorous grandmothers. The Branch endeavours to send a contribution to many charitable organisations and to remember with a parcel, or flowers, the lonely folk at Christmastime.

FRANK ROBERTS

HAWKHURST Branch are anxious to start a Hospital Car Service. They are a country Branch and would be expected to serve three hospitals each about fifteen miles away. Information from any Branch which already operates such a scheme would be welcomed by Bill West. "The Cedars", Copt Hall Avenue Hawkhurst, Kent.

Prisoners' Friends

C. W. K. POTTS

'I was in prison and ye visited me.'

NINE MONTHS in prison! That is what I have just done—I as a prison welfare officer. I have been in many places in my life and mixed with all sorts of people, but nowhere have I met a friendlier crowd of men than here in Her Majesty's Prison, Norwich. There are nearly three hundred of them and an ever-changing population: an average of a hundred receptions a month recently, convicted to serve sentences varying from seven days to several years. There are all sorts, habitual drunkards, old age pensioners, teenagers, remanded in custody or awaiting transfer to approved schools or borstal training, and many delayed adolescents up to the age of forty. Thieves, confidence men, debtors, irresponsible motorists, sex perverts, quiet scheming men, violent men or gentle men. Labourers, artisans, lorry-drivers, business men, students, waiters, seamen, soldiers, artists—even a bingo operator.

What virtues, if any, do they have? I have not yet found one who did not show some charity to his fellow-prisoners and to me. And if they had every other virtue but had not charity they would be worth nothing. Their crimes? I ask myself how often have I been tempted to steal, to defraud, to drive a car dangerously, to rape, to kill, to forge, to perjure, to fall into debt, to commit an act of sacrilege or indecency. The answer is never—or at least hardly ever, and then it was but a mild temptation. So I am not in a position to judge these men.

What are they like to meet? What is anyone like to meet? My first impression, when I started working in a prison, was that they were just like men are anywhere else. There was little or no abnormality about their behaviour

or their conversation. They were an ordinary, friendly bunch of men, and I liked them from the start. I still do. I like them more as I get to know them.

How does a prison welfare officer help them? In a material way, by seeing that they have reasonable clothing when they leave prison, by trying to fix them up with work and accommodation after their discharge. In a moral way, by becoming a friend, by trying to help them to see their responsibilities in life and to recover their self-respect. Some have a deep-seated grievance against the law, against their families, their employers, their partners, their erstwhile friends, or against society in general. These men need a friend and a confidant, someone whom they can trust.

And their faith and trust can be almost limitless, and their thanks for any little help is touching. But there are too many men in every prison for the welfare officers—about one to every three hundred men—to have time to listen to all the confidences waiting to be poured out to an understanding listener, to read all the pathetic letters that are offered to a kindly viewer, to answer all the troubled questions that demand the interest and advice of a sympathetic friend.

Keeping Contact

And then the man goes out of prison. Maybe he has a job: maybe he has lodgings: maybe he has a family waiting for him. But maybe he has none of these. The prison welfare officer is, I hope, his friend by now, but he is left behind in the prison and is no longer available. There are after-care officers in nearly every county, and wonderful work they are doing with their friendship, advice and help, but one man cannot keep close contact with the vast number of ex-prisoners scattered throughout the towns and villages of a whole county. He relies to a great extent on voluntary associates who are willing to visit and befriend ex-prisoners.

Let me give an example of a man in need. Bert Bloggs is serving a twelve month sentence for burglary. Bert is a

young man of thirty. He was born in a slum house. His father died leaving him and his sister Elsie in the care of a slatternly mother, who became a prostitute. She was later married again to a brutal and drunken man who lived on her immoral earnings. When Elsie was seventeen, the stepfather tried to rape her. Bert was then sixteen and he was a big, strong lad. He attacked his stepfather and beat him unconscious. Elsie had a breakdown and has spent most of the rest of her life in a mental hospital. Bert left home and lived in cheap lodgings. He joined up with a gang of other restless and unwanted youngsters. He got into trouble for taking a motor-cycle from a parking ground and smashing up the machine. That was his first conviction. There followed many more for larceny, for breaking and entering, for assault. He went to an approved school, he was committed to borstal training, he was sentenced to imprisonment. He is now in prison for the third time.

At the age of nineteen Bert married Lily. She had already had an illegitimate child when she was fifteen. She had a child by Bert before she married him. She has three more now. They live in a one-room flat. They have had their names down for four years for a council house.

Different Standard

Bert honestly wants to provide a good home for them: he wants the children to have all the chances that he never had. He wants them to have a few luxuries. That, he says, is why he broke into a shop: he could not earn enough to buy the things he wanted for his family. Bert has no well-developed conscience about the sanctity of other people's property. He has never owned anything of value which others might want to steal. He is sorry for what he did, but chiefly he is sorry that he was caught. Bert would not steal from a pal. He respects his friends: he has no respect for society at large. He has no friends of the type to influence him to a different ethical standard.

Bert is in prison now. He is worried about Lily. He has heard from the prison 'grapevine' that she is to be seen

most evenings at one of the pubs. He is worried about the children left at home. He has heard too that Lily has taken in a man lodger. 'When I get out' he says, 'I'll beat her to a pulp'. He writes her abusive letters, but does not understand that these are hardly conducive to recovering her loyalty to him.

Bert is due to leave prison shortly. What will happen to him? I am very fond of Bert. I wish that I could give him the help that he needs. I wish that I knew a really decent young man, aged about thirty, who lives in Bert's home town and who would be willing to come and visit Bert in prison, and who would later meet him when he has come out. Perhaps he could take Bert for a drink at the local and help to break the tension of his first impact with the free world. And finally he might take Bert to his own home to meet his family. It is possible that this same kind friend might later introduce Bert to helping with a boys' club, doing odd jobs at the blind home or gardening at the old people's home. You may remember that I said that my friends in prison have the virtue of charity. Bert is no exception: he would enjoy doing something to help someone in need, if only he had a friend to come with him and to ease his first embarrassment.

Voluntary Associates

We prison welfare officers and after-care officers are looking for voluntary associates, men of all ages, who would be willing to befriend men like Bert. Such associates must be highly responsible men who are vouched for by a reputable authority. You can understand that irresponsible people could misuse the privileges of visiting a prison, could abuse confidences or could exploit a prisoner after his discharge. We should prefer associates who are artisans or labourers, because most of the prisoners are in these categories, though we are glad of all sorts of associates.

Where can we find such voluntary associates? Where are we more likely to find them than Toc H? When I think of some of the young drivers, mechanics, bricklayers, that I have met in Toc H in the past, I wish that I knew

some of this type in every town and village of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Over thirty years ago, Toc H was presented with the challenge of providing the first voluntary blood donors in England. Toc H responded magnificently. From that the present organisation of voluntary blood transfusion service has been established. Again it was Toc H that found lay workers to serve in leper colonies. Is Toc H as virile and ready now to meet another challenge to provide friends for prisoners? Bert, I told you, is due to come out of prison soon. How long will it be before he comes back into prison on another charge? Perhaps that depends on you. Maybe you could cope with Bert: not everybody could. But there are plenty of other men coming out of prisons, most of them milder and more amenable than Bert, and most of them needing friends—desperately needing them.

Prisoner's Pen-Friends

It is a lot to ask of you, but I do believe that there are men in Toc H who will respond. If you could not manage to go to such lengths as to visit and befriend a prisoner in person, would you consider the possibility of becoming a prisoner's pen-friend? Several of my friends in Norwich prison have told me that they wish that they had someone to write to them. I should be very glad if I had a list of potential pen-friends and could put them in contact. A man in prison often longs to unburden himself to someone in whom he can trust, and sometimes he may find it easier to express himself on paper when he is alone in his cell.

If you are interested in this challenge, if you are prepared to befriend a prisoner, how do you get in touch with one? Nearly every county has its Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society. The police could give you the address. Or you could write to the Prison Welfare Officer at any prison in your district.

Would the prisoner let you down? No, though it is, I fear, only too likely that he may let himself down. Convalescents, physical, mental or moral, may be very wobbly

on their pins for some time. If you thought a man had let you down, then you were not the right person to help him. You may let him down, but please do not blame him if you do.

God gave most of you many talents. Most of you have invested them well. Some of these prisoners have been blessed with one or two talents: they need someone to help them to invest these few precious talents properly. I hope that the day is not far off when Toc H membership may be enriched by the inclusion of several ex-prisoners. It is said that one of the most devoted followers of Jesus was an ex-prostitute. There are women's prisons too, and Toc H has a Women's Association.

An early Tale

D. LEGG

MEMORY PLAYS STRANGE TRICKS, and dates are, for me, very elusive things, but it must have been in the late Autumn of 1918 that the following amusing episode happened.

One fine afternoon P.B.C. caught hold of me and announced that he was going to Calais and that he would like me to go along with him.

"How," I said, "are we to get to Calais? Every available form of Army Transport has left Pop; the Army has taken everything on wheels on the victorious march into Belgium."

Tubby, for the moment, seemed completely nonplussed. "Ah," said he, "I know; we will ring up for a light-engine from the R.E.s." To hear Tubby on a field telephone is something one can never forget. Charm, bluff, and diplomacy were brought into full play. He got the light engine!

In a short while down the street at Poperinge (at the so-called station, or what was left of it) a British Light Engine arrived driven by two grinning R.E.s. Tubby's greeting was warm and effusive. I was bidden to climb up and seat myself on the tender—on the coal.

My early ambition had always been to ride on a real railway engine, but I never thought that my first ride would be on a W.D. engine in Belgium. Tubby took his place on the footplate beside the driver and fireman. We started slowly and gained speed rapidly. I set my teeth and hung on as we bumped about on the crazy track, hoping for a speedy deliverance.

Tubby seemed supremely happy and drew out from a folder a pile of papers saying would I like to look at these. They were some of the drafts of the *Tales of Talbot House*. I grasped these very precious papers feeling slightly sick. I have never been quite sure why I was privileged to have a first glimpse of what was to become a famous book. I only know that I was very thankful to reach that journey's end, and to hand that precious document back to its owner.

When I was at Knutsford Tubby signed a copy of *Tales of Talbot House* for me. In the fly leaf he wrote several very kind things about me (quite undeserved). Among the words he used was 'gallant'. This treasured book has an honoured place on my study book shelves. I often wonder, however, if he used the word 'gallant' in recollection of that mad journey from Pop to Calais. Certainly for me, personally, the clinging on to that tender was the most gallant thing I ever did for the Old House at Poperinge.

Don't just say brown

—say Hovis

The New Plaque

PEGGY VENNER

LAST year in mid-August, when we were staying in Poperinge with the Winant Volunteers, Tubby, Dick Hughes and I were walking along Rysel Street at Ypres.

On the wall of the Institut Immaculata, the Convent of the "Zusters Van t' Gelove (La Motte)", hung the original plaque of Little Talbot House. Alas, it was in a sad state. Lettering almost illegible. Obviously it had not been weatherproof, and the conscientious cleaning with doubt-

less a strong corrosive polish by the Little Sisters, had not helped matters.



The Mother Superior inspects the plaque

As the only woman member of the party and because I speak French, Tubby bade me enter the precincts of the convent. The door was discreetly opened by an erect young nun who only spoke Flemish. I was put into a

cool parlour, and soon the Mother Superior herself received me.

I found myself obeying an impulse. As a child I had been taught to drop a curtsy to my elders and betters, this I did to the Mother Superior, and looking up I met a pair of amused twinkling eyes. Having obtained her gracious permission to remove the plaque from her convent wall the interview was at an end.



. . . its message now in three languages. . .

Now the fun began! Dick Hughes went into action with odds against him. To take down the plaque was a major operation, for all he had to do it with was a pen-knife. Here Henri, Tubby's kind driver, produced a large screwdriver. Dick Hughes was up against the rust of years, but with engineering determination and persistence he pressed on, and, finally, with a grating growl the plaque and its perished wooden back came away without, mercifully, the collapse of the convent wall.

As the plaque was quite beyond repair it was decided that a new one must be afforded somehow. A very expensive item. Dick Hughes said he would take the plaque back to England and consult his employer, Sir John Greaves. And here then is the splendid end of the story:

Sir John was not merely interested, for he instructed his staff to design and make a new plaque and then generously donated it to Toc H. Moreover, he sent out an engineer to erect it. So it stands on the convent wall again, its message now in three languages for all citizens of Ypres and passers-by to read, and maybe think awhile.

As a postscript I must add that the plaque is completely weatherproof. Tubby, however, fearing the industry and over-kindness of the Little Sisters, asked me to write to the

Mother Superior discreetly suggesting that it should only be cleaned with a flick of a feather duster or chamois leather, nothing else. This I did, very deferentially. . . . But I need not have feared.

I received a letter from the Mother Superior in a quite beautiful handwriting, such as one rarely sees, signed "Mère Cécile". I give you the precise literal translation:

"The upkeep of the plaque will be according to your instructions, dear Madame. It would really be regrettable to deteriorise her by imprudence after all the care she has demanded to replace her." The retort courteous!

Elder Brethren

'With proud thanksgiving . . .'

ANDREWS.—On August 15, DAVID ROBERT ANDREWS ('Andy'), aged 53, a member of Edgware Branch. Elected 16.3.'42.

ARMSTRONG.—On August 24, WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, aged 53, a member of Ayr Branch. Elected 18.3.'61.

BOWMAN.—On August 24, HENRY BOWMAN, aged 61, a member of Mitcham Branch. Elected 12.5.'36.

BROWN.—On July 20, C. NORMAN BROWN. A Manchester Area member. Elected 27.7.'27.

BURKE.—On August 9, ROBERT BURKE, aged 60, the Chairman of Stonehouse Branch. Elected 16.12.'52.

GOMER.—On August 27, SYDNEY GOMER, aged 66, a member of Charlton Branch. Elected 28.2.'31.

HALSE.—On August 9, the Most Rev. REGINALD CHARLES HALSE, Archbishop of Brisbane and a Vice-President of Toc H Queensland.

HUGHES.—On August 15, IVOR GRIFFITH HUGHES, a member of Deganwy Branch. Elected 11.10.'34.

HUGHES.—On August 3, JOHN ROBERT HUGHES, aged 71, the Chairman of Bargoed Branch. Elected 28.2.'47.

LUARD.—On August 16, Sister KATE EVELYN LUARD, R.R.C. and Bar, aged 90. A Founder member of Toc H. Elected 1.1.'21.

MANCE.—On August 24, CHARLES HAMILTON MANCE, aged 84, a member of Hastings Branch. Elected 1.1.'29.

MOORE.—On August 19, GEORGE STONE BANKS MOORE, aged 59, a member of Whitley Bay Branch. Elected 28.1.'59.

MORGAN.—On August 1. the Rev. RICHARD CYNDDYLAN MORGAN, aged 68, a founder member of Chipping Campden Branch. Elected 27.2.'60.

OWEN.—On August 4. WILLIAM LEWIS OWEN, aged 66 a founder member of Treforest Branch. Elected 5.7.'34.

PALFREY.—On August 10, ERNEST PALFREY ('Tom'), aged 74, a member of Stroud Branch. Elected 19.1.'48.

PEREIRA.—Suddenly, in London, on August 14, HENRY LINCOLN PEREIRA, formerly a member of Toc H Colombo.

ROSSITER.—In September, Dr. J. L. ROSSITER, C.B.E., past Hon. Area Commissioner and President, and a Vice-President of Toc H Australia.

STEWART.—On August 15, FREDERICK DOUGLAS STEWART, aged 80, a member of the Central General Members Branch. Elected 17.8.'42.

STUART.—On August 25. DONALD STUART, aged 63. a member of Exmouth Branch. Elected Paris group 11.12.'33.

In Memoriam

EVELYN LUARD

Sister EVELYN LUARD, R.R.C. and Bar, who died on August 16th at the age of ninety, has often been described by Tubby as his first communicant when he went out to the war from Portsea Parish in 1915. Her book, *Unknown Warriors* (now unfortunately out of print), was published in 1930, in order to give a true picture of the heroism of the British soldier, against whom a campaign of calumny and criticism had arisen. She felt the least she could do was to publish extracts from her letters, written at the time showing how truly courageous were the men who suffered and who died.

For some weeks in 1917 she was in charge of an Advanced Abdominal Centre at Brandhoek, a small village lying between Poperinge and Vlamertinge and well known to our Poperinge pilgrims. This however proved too dangerous a position and had to be evacuated. During the last war she organised the local Red Cross activities in the Essex village in which she lived.

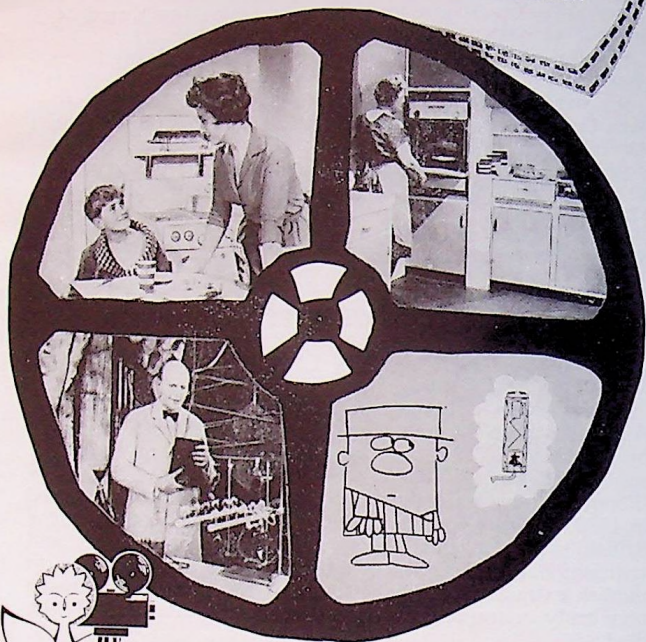
Sister Luard possessed all the qualities one looks for in a nurse—sympathy and understanding, courage and decision, and a sense of humour. In addition she had a strong realisation of the presence of God, though as she said in one of her letters "There is a bit of 'Thank God' sometimes, but prayer somehow doesn't come in, which seems funny! You can be doing that!"

A.B.S.M.

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Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN

IN CENTRAL AFRICA

A FEW MONTHS AGO Dennis Etheredge, Chairman of the Central African Executive, spoke at a lunch hour meeting at Toc H Headquarters on Tower Hill. One could wish that the whole of his talk might be reported verbatim, but it is hoped that this digest will give a glimpse of the ground covered. Despite the passage of a few summer months his talk is still of current interest and as valid as ever.

In describing the general background of Central Africa he stressed that despite the copper mines and tobacco industry, the basic fact was that Rhodesia, like most of Africa, was generally poor and ignorant. He also stressed that the proportion of Africans to Europeans was 12-1 in Southern Rhodesia, 400-1 in Nyasaland and 27-1 in the Federation as a whole. In terms of present day politics, this meant that the white minority which had provided Central Africa with its social, political and economic structure, was now faced with powerful pressures both within Africa and beyond to accept the transfer of power to the majority of people, which in its crudest sense meant a transfer from a white minority to a black majority.

Those who lived in the country hoped that it wouldn't be quite like that, that it would be possible to achieve the sort

of society in which colour doesn't matter, in which as the African takes increasing political power he will do it in such a way as to show recognition of the European's contribution and to maintain the standards of government and justice which are part of the British way of life. The European in turn would have to merit this recognition by honestly working towards the creation of a genuine non-racial society.

No one would suggest that this was easy to achieve, or even that it could be achieved, but it ought certainly to be the objective of Toc H and other allied movements.

Turning to Toc H itself, Dennis confessed that numerically it was small, and that in fact the Women's Association was bigger and in many ways more vital. On the whole the quality of membership was good. One of the significant features was that a considerable proportion of new members in recent years had been between say, 20 and 35 years of age. Among them were men who in various fields should contribute greatly to the country in time to come, and he believed that their association with Toc H would make certain that their contribution was a worthwhile one.

Among the members, too, there were a few African and Coloured men. Nine Africans had been members for just over a year; by the end of the present year he hoped there would be twice as many. They have shown a quite remarkable ability to understand the deeper meaning of Toc H and to apply Toc H not only to their meetings but to their whole lives.

Dennis went on to say "So much that has mattered in our social structure in Rhodesia over the last few years has been inspired by Toc H. We provided the hard work at the beginning, we brought other people into something that was far bigger than we ourselves could cope with, and got something really worthwhile started. I think for instance of the Citizen's Advice Bureau Movement, which was quite unknown in Rhodesia three years ago, but today is flourishing in about seven centres throughout the country and which is obviously going to grow. I think, too, of the new Southern Rhodesia Council for Social Service which again was largely started by Toc H members, and of other ventures such as Outward Bound which has a very real meaning in our part of the world. Although most of us are outdoors a good deal, it provides a special opportunity for bringing young boys of different races together for three weeks at a time.

"In starting many other enterprises of that sort we are playing a part: helping to create the sort of social structure which I hope will ensure that whatever happens in our part

of the world we may have a pattern of things developed which will be very hard to break down, and which will ensure that we do have a society of some worth. In all these things Africans are participating and playing an important part. Not only our Toc H African members (some of whom are connected with the Citizens' Advice Bureau), but many other Africans too, playing a significant part in building up this structure of social service.

"One of the most heartening things about the circumstances in Toc H in Rhodesia has been the growth of our spiritual life and that a growing number of padres are now prepared to give some of their very little time to Toc H Branches. And I think I can say they are certainly playing their part in Toc H.

"But the immediate practical problem is to reconcile man with man; to make all those living in a country like ours believe that they do all belong to one nation and that differences should be sunk for the benefit of that whole nation. Now this is no easy task. People from different backgrounds, from different cultures, from different religions and some not even within the field of any religion, put all these people together and say 'you belong here, you are Rhodesians' and you are more closely related to that white man there or that black man there than you are to some uncle or aunt in Sheffield or to some African living in the Congo. This is a great task. Some people think it impossible, but through movements like Toc H, I believe we can do a tremendous amount towards it. I doubt whether anywhere in the world Toc H has a greater challenge, a greater task than it has in our part of the world."

Remember



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Saturday, November 10

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October, 1962

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